AS AN AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS AND AN AMATEUR OPERATOR FOR OVER 25 YEARS I WHOLE HEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE ARRL'S PETITION. THE RANKS OF AMATEUR OPERATORS HAS BEEN DWINDLING OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS CAUSING A DECLINE IN THE RANKS OF A "READY AND ABLE" ALTERNATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORK FOR OUR COUNTRY. BY ENACTING THIS PETITION, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING AN AMATEUR LICENSE BECOME MORE REALISTIC IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT, AND WOULD ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO THIS AVOCATION. THANK YOU, KENNETH R. ESTER